

South Pacific Information and Data Management to support Integrated Coastal Area Management (SPINCAM) with the support of the Government of Flanders (Belgium)

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SPINCAM was designed to establish a framework of integrated coastal management indicators at the national and regional levels in the countries of the South Pacific region (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) focusing on the state of the coastal and marine environment and socio-economic conditions. The indicators and coastal spatial data aim to support integrated coastal area management (ICAM) and the development of practices for sustainable use in the region. The project is supported by the government of Flanders (Belgium) under the coordination of IOC-UNESCO and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, CPPS.

SPINCAM I (2008-2012) focused on developing a harmonized approach to design a core set of national ICAM indicators and five regional indicators following a common. In the process, national and regional information systems were built to support the development and spatial representation of these indicators, and the dissemination of ICAM resources and experiences.

SPINCAM II (2012-2016) supports national decision-making processes by establishing baselines and identifying ecological and socio-economic trends in the use of coastal resources. It provides a knowledge base for the implementation of ICAM in the region and the definition of future strategies to deal with global changes. During this period, the national indicators were integrated in the national information systems and products in support of ICAM (e.g. atlases). Since 2015, SPINCAM is implementing pilot case studies* at local scale in collaboration with national and local authorities in each of the countries. The pilot cases contribute to develop the information needs and the tools to support local ICAM initiatives by improving stakeholder participation.

The proposal for a third phase involves a long-term strategy with a programme approach for both ICAM and marine spatial planning in the Southeast Pacific. This strategy takes into account the geographical coverage and complexity of the environmental challenges faced by the region's ocean and coastal zones, while recognizing their importance as drivers in the regional economy. This strategy is in line with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, commonly known as the Lima Convention.

Throughout the project, SPINCAM is supported by the International Ocean Data and Information Exchange programme (IODE for IOC-UNESCO) activities with respect to the data and information management, the development of coastal and marine atlases (International Coastal Atlas Network ICAN) and capacity building (OceanTeacher Global Academy OTGA and its regional training centers).

From a global perspective, SPINCAM supports the region's contribution to the Global Ocean Science Report (GOSR), the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (United Nations General Assembly) including socio-economic aspects, and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal SDG-14).

References

SPINCAM project website: www.spincamnet.org

SPINCAM regional ICAM atlas: www.atlasspincam.net

* Pilot case studies: Algarrobo, El Quisco and El Tabo (Chile), Guapi (Colombia), Churute Ecological Reserve (Ecuador), Las Perlas Archipelago (Panama) and Piura-Bay of Sechura (Peru).